

REMARKS

Claims 4, 20 and 33 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has amended the respective independent claim from which these claims depend and has properly designated claims 4, 20, and 33 as either canceled or previously presented subject to the independent claim from which they depend.

Claims 1, 4-7, 13, 17, 20-22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al). Claims 8-9 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al). Claims 14 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al) in view of O'Connor. Claims 30, 33-37, 41 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al) in view of Bermel et al (2002/0160119). Claims 2-3, 10-11, 18-19 and 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al) in view of Yapel et al (6,117,237). Claims 31-32 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al) in view of Bermel et al (2002/0160119) and Yapel et al (6,117,237). Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 90/01178 (Ruschak et al) in view of Bermel et al (2002/0160119) and O'Connor. Claims 12, 15-16, 27, 40 and 43-44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 4, 15, 17, 30, 33, and 45 herewith are amended. Claims 12, 20, 27 have been canceled.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended is requested for the following reasons. Claims 1, 17, and 30 have been amended to include the feature of an edge guide with an overhang portion which extends over a coating layer, and that creates a seal by mating with

the proximity shield. This feature was earlier recited in the objectionable claims 12, 27, and 40, hence, these claims have been rewritten in independent form per the Examiner's suggestion and should now be found allowable.

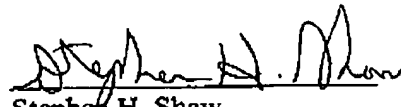
Accordingly, each of the independent claims (1, 17, 30, and 45) now include what the Examiner has acknowledged the prior art of failing to teach or suggest. That is, a system or method for preventing gas currents from impacting a coating process with a multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus, comprising:

- a) a multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus that forms a multilayer composite;
- b) a web for coating by the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus;
- c) a proximity shield positioned substantially parallel to the slide surface while being in close proximity to both the web and a slide surface of the multi-slot slide bead coating apparatus such that gas currents do not disturb the multilayer composite on the slide surface; and
- d) an edge guide for creating a seal by mating with the proximity shield, wherein the edge guide has an overhang portion which extends over a coating layer.

As such, the independent claims 1, 17, 30, and 45 are believed novel and unobvious. The remaining claims are dependent from these independent claims and are considered to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.